WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today released the following statement honoring twelve local teachers - Angelica Barrios, Tiffany Favilla, Matthew Holland, Julie Jones, Susan Kelleher, Stacy Kline, Allison Maynard, Lauren Nguyen, Nancy Soluna, Deidra Stewart, Mariana Vasilj, Stephanie Williams - for being designated 2009 National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT). To earn the NBCT designation, teachers must undergo a rigorous evaluation process by their peers and education experts.

"I firmly believe that education is the foundation of opportunity. But for our students to fully realize their potential, they need teachers who are committed to their cause. Today, I'd like to honor these educators, particularly those who were designated National Board Certified Teachers for 2009.

"Of the seventeen Orange County teachers who received this honor, twelve are from schools in my district. I am proud to have such exemplary educators living and working in our local community. In Congress, I will continue to work hard to ensure all our teachers are equipped with the tools they need to help our children fulfill their academic potential."

###